

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JAKART 12301 120652Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-11 /084 W  
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R 120501Z SEP 78  
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1358  
INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI  
AMCONSUL MEDAN  
AMCONSUL SURABAYA

S E C R E T JAKARTA 12301

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR, ID  
SUBJECT: PANGLIMA'S COMMENTS ON EAST TIMOR SITUATION

REF: JAKARTA 12189 (NOTAL)

1. BRIGADIER GENERAL KALBUADI DADING, IN A PRIVATE MEETING WITH ME AND MY AUSTRALIAN, CANADIAN, AND NEW ZELAND COLLEAGUES IN DILI ON SEPTEMBER 8, SAID THAT THE BASIC INDONESIAN POLICY IS TO "PERSUADE THE PEOPLE TO JOIN THE GOVERNMENT SIDE." THE ARMY, HE NOTED, COULD END OPPOSITION IN THE REMAINING TWO AREAS (SEE BELOW) BY MILITARY MEANS, BUT THE GOI HOPES TO AVOID THIS ROUTE. HE SAID, "WE DO NOT SEE THIS AS BASICALLY A MILITARY OPERATION BUT RATHER A PROSPERITY OPERATON." THERE IS NO NEED FOR LARGE MILITARY MOVEMENTS. INDONESIA DOES NOT WANT TO "REPEAT THE VIETNAM EXPERIENCE" BUT WANTS TO END UP IN A SITUATION IN WHICH THE BULK OF THE PEOPLE SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT. IF WE ATTACK THEM, "THE PEOPLE WILL HATE US." DADING BELIEVES THAT

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AT THE PRESENT RATE OF DEFECTIONS THE BASIC FRETELIN PROBLEM WILL BE RESOLVED BY THE END OF THE YEAR, ALTHOUGH SPORADIC TERRORIST ACTS MAY CONTINUE BEYOND THAT TIME.

2. ASKED ABOUT FRETELIN STRENGTH, DADING SAID THIS IS DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE BUT THE GOI BELIEVES THE HARD CORE NUMBERS NO MORE THAN 50 TO 100 AT THE PRESENT TIME, WITH

ONLY ABOUT HALF OF THOSE HAVING WEAPONS. THE REMAINING DISSIDENTS, HE SAID, ARE GROUPED IN THREE AREAS. TWO OF THESE ARE CLOSE TOGETHER NEAR THE MOUTH OF THE LUCIO DO SUL RIVER, A SWAMPY AREA ALONG THE SOUTHERN COAST IN KECAMATAN FATO-BERLIU. BOTH HORTA AND DO AMAREL WERE PICKED UP IN THIS REGION. THE SECOND SIGNIFICANT AREA IS IN DIFFICULT MOUNTAIN TERRAIN AROUND GUNUNG MATABIA IN KECAMATAN WATALARI. BECAUSE OF THE TOUGH NATURE OF THE COUNTRY AND THE PRESENCE THERE OF HOSTAGES WHO ARE RELATIVES OF EAST TIMORESE MEMBERS OF HANSIP (THE PARAMILITARY HOME GUARD), NO MILITARY OPERATIONS ARE UNDERWAY THERE AT PRESENT. THE WESTERN PORTIONS OF THE PROVINCE, ACCORDING TO DADING, ARE CLEAR EXCEPT FOR A FEW ISOLATED TERRORISTS.

3. DADING SAID CIVILIANS WHO HAVE COME OVER TO THE INDONESIAN SIDE ESTIMATE THAT FRETILIAN STILL HOLDS ABOUT 100 PRISONERS, PRESUMABLY FORMER SUPPORTERS SUSPECTED OF HELPING THE INDONESIANS. (OTHERS SPECULATED THAT UP TO 5,000 CIVILIANS MAY BE TO SOME DEGREE "HOSTAGES" OF FRETILIN.) ASKED ABOUT THE NUMBER OF CIVILIANS STILL IN THE MOUNTAINS, DADING SAID IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO GIVE A MEANINGFUL ESTIMATE. THE BEST HE COULD DO WAS SAY THAT THE POPULATION OF THE PROVINCE UNDER THE PORTUGUESE WAS ABOUT 600,000. THERE ARE NOW 460,000 IN AREAS CONTROLLED BY THE INDONESIANS. ANOTHER 50,000 LEFT EAST TIMOR

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DURING THE WAR. (NOTE: THE DEPUTY GOVERNOR PUT THE NUMBER STILL IN REMOTE MOUNTAINOUS OR SWAMPY TERRAIN AT 10,000 TO 20,000, MOSTLY CIVILIANS.) DADING SAID AN AVERAGE OF 200 DAILY ARE TURNING THEMSELVES INTO THE 14 INDONESIAN RELOCATION CENTERS. HE NOTED THAT 4,517 HAD COME THROUGH THESE CENTERS SINCE JULY OF THIS YEAR.

4. DADING SAID THE GOI USUALLY HAS A GOOD IDEA WHEN AND WHERE THE REFUGEES WILL APPEAR. THEY ARE MET BY A TEAM INCLUDING AN INDONESIAN RED CROSS DOCTOR, NURSE AND OTHERS. ALSO PRESENT IS A TECHNICIAN TO HELP THE PEOPLE BUILD THATCHED HOUSES. THEY NORMALLY STAY IN THESE RELOCATION AREAS FOR THREE MONTHS, FOLLOWING WHICH THEY RETURN TO THEIR ORIGINAL VILLAGES, MOVE ELSEWHERE OR SETTLE PERMANENTLY IN THE RELOCATION AREA.

5. DADING NOTED THAT HANSIP, WHICH CONSISTS OF 8,000 EAST TIMORESE, IS A KEY ELEMENT IN THE PROVINCE. THOUGH MOSTLY UNARMED, THEY HELP APPEAL TO THOSE OUTSIDE GOI CONTROL TO RALLY TO THE GOVERNMENT SIDE. THEY ALSO ARE BEING TRAINED IN CIVIC ACTION SO THEY CAN HELP THE REFUGEES BUILD HOUSES, CONSTRUCT SANITARY FACILITIES

AND OTHERWISE PROVIDE FOR A BETTER LIFE. THERE  
ARE ALSO TWO BATTALIONS OF EAST TIMORESE TROOPS WITH  
THE ARMY IN THE PROVINCE. THE BASIC GOI OBJECTIVE IS TO  
USE LOCAL PEOPLE TO THE GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE.

6. ASKED ABOUT SUPPLIES ON HAND, DADING SAID THERE WERE  
2,000 TONS OF RICE AND 1800 TONS OF MAIZE IN THE PROVINCE  
TO MEET REFUGEE NEEDS. THERE ARE ALSO ENOUGH MEDICAL  
SUPPLIES FOR SIX MONTHS EVEN IF ALL THOSE IN THE HILLS  
CAME INTO THE RELOCATION CENTERS. HOWEVER, HE AGREED THAT  
RESUPPLY OF THE CENTERS WOULD BE DIFFICULT IN BAD WEATHER.  
AIR DROPS COULD BECOME HAZARDOUS AND THE NUMBER OF SMALL  
TRUCKS, WHICH COULD OPERATE ON THE POOR ROADS, WAS LIMITED.  
MASTERS

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## Message Attributes

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